

## **February 26, 2009**

The February 26, 2009, Town Council Meeting was called to order by John Lewis, Vice President, of the Foster Town Council at the Town House, 180 Howard Hill Road, Foster, Rhode Island, at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present:  
**Colette Matarese, President, excused**  
**John Lewis, Vice President,**  
**Lynne S. Rider,**  
**Roger L. Hawes,**  
**Joe Cardillo,**  
**John J. Bevilacqua, Town Solicitor**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### **AGENDA ORDER**

Lynne S. Rider moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to move the agenda item, #IX special joint meeting up under #IV warrants

John Lewis aye, Joe Cardillo aye, Roger L. Hawes aye, Lynne S. Rider aye.

### **MINUTES**

Lynne S. Rider moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the meeting minutes of January 22, 2009.

Joe Cardillo aye, Lynne S. Rider aye, Roger L. Hawes aye, John Lewis aye.

### **WARRANTS**

Lynne S. Rider moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the Payroll Warrant #32 in the amount of \$27,813.63, Payroll Warrant #33 in the amount of \$26,049.95, and General Warrant #17 in the amount of \$245,427.43.

John Lewis aye, Joe Cardillo aye, Roger L. Hawes aye, Lynne S. Rider aye.

**JOINT MTGS.** John Lewis, Vice President, asked everyone to introduce themselves if they were officials in attendance for the joint meeting of the Foster/Glocester Regional School Committee and the Glocester Town Council.

The following Glocester Town Council members were present:  
George O. Steere, Jr.; Walter M. O. Steere, III; and Kevin P. Walsh.

The following Foster/Glocester Regional School Committee members were present:  
Christopher C. Hebert; Walter M.O. Steere, Jr.; Mary Elizabeth Keeling; Anne E. Ejnes; Steven A. Sette; of the Town of Glocester. Cynthia Bernard, Ronald Cervasio, and Dennis Chretien, of the Town of Foster.

John Lewis stated that everyone was in attendance to discuss the Regional School Budget.

Michael Barnes, Regional Superintendent stated that the public hearing on the regional school budget would be on March 3, 2009.

Michael Paolucci, Foster resident, asked if there were any copies of the proposed budget for the regional school.

Michael Barnes stated that this was not a public hearing on the budget, and there were no copies available.

**JOINT MTGS. CONT.** Lynne S. Rider, councilperson, asked if it had been determined that the budget for the region will be going up to the 4.75% increase allowed under “Paiva Weed”, and whether or not the budget will be built on the current “debt service”?

Michael Barnes replied with the regional budget has a zero increase over last fiscal year.

Lynne S. Rider stated that the Town of Foster was supposed to have a decrease this year due to the debt service going down this year. She stated that the region should be level funding the operations budget the same as the two town councils are with the “town” budgets. If the debt service is going down and the operating budget is going up, then you can say that you are level funding, but it is only a “wash”.

Michael Barnes stated that the region has come up with a five year projection, which is in two pieces, one whether the region increases the operating, the total appropriation is zero. The region was looking at a swing, where the graph goes down in one and back up the next.

Sarah Hann, Business Manager for the Regional School, explained that while the region is actually increasing the appropriations for the operating budget by \$545,000.00 the region is also assuming a \$525,000.00 cut in state aid.

Ronald Cervasio, School Committee member stated that the region is looking at an additional cut of four people.

John Lewis, Vice President Foster Town Council, stated that the “scenario sheet” handed out to the public indicated a 0% increase, 2.55% increase, 3.68% increase, 3.27% increase, 5.6% increase, and 3.67% increase over the next six years.

Sarah Hann stated that this is hypothetical, and how the region wanted to use the \$100,000,000.00 debt service would have to be discussed on an annual basis. We might want to use the full amount next year, if times continue to be hard. That way we do not burden the taxpayers as much. This is strictly a proposed scenario to stretch the money out over more than one year.

John Lewis asked what type of surplus the region has, and how it is being applied to the budget, or if it is at all. With that being two different accounts, one within the general accounts and the second one being within the healthcare account with “West Bay”

Sarah Hann stated that there is about \$700,000.00 in the general and in the West Bay account there is about \$360,000.00.

Michael Barnes stated that the region would be “dipping” into the surplus for about \$100,000.00 this year.

**JOINT MTG.  
CONTINUED**

Steven Sette, Regional School Committee member, stated that the towns are working on assumptions on these budgets. The State has not even passed their budget and at some point we will have an accurate number from them. We are building budgets on assumptions.

Walter M.O. Steere, Jr., Gloucester Councilman, stated that the schools should not have a surplus, they are not a taxing authority like the two towns are, and if they do have a surplus, then they should turn the money over to the two towns.

John Lewis, Foster Councilman, stated that it is more than an 11% increase for the region when the town of Foster's portion went from \$300,000.00 to \$816,000.00 in capital costs, he does not know how that would be 11% over a four year period, as stated by Dennis Chretien, School Committee Member. The town of Foster went up over \$500,000.00 in capital expenditures last year.

John J. Bevilacqua, Town Solicitor, stated that he heard from the co-chair of the regional school committee, that the committee was going to move \$500,000.00 from the debt service over to the operating budget. How is the committee going to approach that?

Michael Barnes stated that at last year's regional financial town meeting, the warrant that was presented was a number for the operating side and the debt service side of the budget. The budget that is being put together is asking for \$545,000.00 in operating and the budget is also asking for a reduction of \$545,000.00 in debt service. Those are two separate and distinct numbers. Which in turn, results in a net zero increase?

Ronald Cervasio questioned the right of John J. Bevilacqua, Town Solicitor to speak at this meeting.

John Lewis stated that Mr. John J. Bevilacqua, Town Solicitor, is also a taxpayer for the Town of Foster, and that he had asked for the floor to speak and John Lewis gave him the floor to ask the question. Therefore he is able to speak.

Lynne S. Rider, councilperson, asked what the additional "ESCO" bond in the amount of \$940,000.00 was made at the February 10, 2009 Building Committee meeting was for.

Dennis Chretien, School Committee member, stated that not all of the money that was approved at last years budget was not bonded.

Michael Barnes stated that the sheet that was handed out to the audience at the beginning of the meeting shows that the debt payment for next year is \$5,000,000.00. The reimbursement that the region is receiving from the state is \$4,000,000.00. One Hundred percent of the reimbursement from the state is going to the debt service payment. This means that zero dollars is going into the operating side of the budget. And that the \$711,000.00 in local appropriation is going to make up the difference.

Michael Barnes also stated that there are five legal bodies, all five are facing financial issues and difficulties, if we keep throwing the bricks back and forth, I do not see how that is going to move us beyond that.

John Lewis asked for a five minute recess.

**AGENDA  
ORDER**

Lynne S. Rider moved, Joe Cardillo seconded and it was unanimously so voted to amend the agenda order to move item #VIII. "Public Hearing" up under the item #V "Reports".

John Lewis aye, Joe Cardillo aye, Roger L. Hawes aye, Lynne S. Rider aye.

**CDBG PUBLIC  
HEARING  
APPLICA-  
TIONS**

John Lewis opened the public hearing for the Community Development Block Grant application process.

John Lewis read the request from Western Rhode Island Home Repair in the amount of \$152,500.00

Roger L. Hawes moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to forward the information to the planning board for consideration.

John Lewis aye, Joe Cardillo aye, Roger L. Hawes aye, Lynne S. Rider aye.

John Lewis read the request from Northwest Community Health in the amount of \$20,000.00

Lynne S. Rider moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to forward the information to the planning board for consideration.

Joe Cardillo aye, Lynne S. Rider aye, Roger L. Hawes aye, John Lewis aye.

John Lewis read the request from the Community Housing Land Trust of Rhode Island in the amount of \$3,000.00

Roger L. Hawes moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to forward the information to the planning board for consideration.

John Lewis aye, Joe Cardillo aye, Roger L. Hawes aye, Lynne S. Rider aye.

John Lewis then read the request from the Feasibility Analyses of the proposed Hemlock Village Expansion in the amount of \$35,000.00.

Lynne S. Rider recused herself from this line item request.

Joe Cardillo moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to forward the information to the planning board for consideration.

Joe Cardillo aye, Roger L. Hawes aye, John Lewis aye.

John Lewis read the request from Abbey Lane Condominium Community in the amount of \$125,000.00

Roger L. Hawes moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to forward the information to the planning board for consideration.

Joe Cardillo aye, Lynne S. Rider aye, Roger L. Hawes aye, John Lewis aye.

John Lewis then closed the Public Hearing.

**LICENSE RENEWALS** Lynne S. Rider moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the extension of time to March 30, 2009, for the following license holders to have the specific authorizing department corrected:

Price Auto – Zoning  
Foster Quick Stop – Tax Collector

Joe Cardillo aye, Lynne S. Rider aye, Roger L. Hawes aye, John Lewis aye.

**APPOINTMENT OF ZB ALT.** Roger L. Hawes moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the appointment of Maureen McEntee as an alternate to the Zoning Board of review.

**BID AWARD FOR ENGINEERING** Lynne S. Rider moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the recommendation from Ann-Marie Ignasher, Planner, and Robert Clarkin, Public Works Director, to award the bid from Crossman Engineering, Inc. in the amount of \$26,700.00 for the engineering work of the youth athletic field.

John Lewis aye, Joe Cardillo aye, Roger L. Hawes aye, Lynne S. Rider aye.

**REQUEST FROM WRIHR** Lynne S. Rider moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to table the request of \$2,000.00 from Western Rhode Island Home Repair, until the next scheduled council meeting

Joe Cardillo aye, Lynne S. Rider aye, Roger L. Hawes aye, John Lewis aye.

**MILEAGE REQUEST** Roger L. Hawes moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the mileage request in the amount of \$51.42, from Robert Ferland, Electrical Inspector.

Joe Cardillo aye, Lynne S. Rider aye, Roger L. Hawes aye, John Lewis aye.

**APPOINTMENT TO FOSTER LAND TRUST** Lynne S. Rider moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to appoint William Fortier to the Foster Land Trust, with the term ending December 31, 2009.

Joe Cardillo aye, Lynne S. Rider aye, Roger L. Hawes aye, John Lewis aye.

**REQUESTS FOR FAIR GROUNDS** Lynne S. Rider moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the request from the Swamp Meadow Community Theatre for the use of the fair grounds on August 23, 2009.

John Lewis aye, Joe Cardillo aye, Roger L. Hawes aye, Lynne S. Rider aye.

Roger L. Hawes moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the request from the Northern RI 4-H District for the use of the fair grounds on May 10, 2009

Joe Cardillo aye, Lynne S. Rider aye, Roger L. Hawes aye, John Lewis aye.

**VACATION  
TIME  
REQUEST**

Roger L. Hawes moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the request from Ann-Marie Ignasher to use her vacation time on March 30, through April 2, 2009, that was previously carried over and approved at the June 26, 2008 council meeting

Joe Cardillo aye, Lynne S. Rider aye, Roger L. Hawes aye, John Lewis aye.

**TAX ROLL  
ADDITIONS**

Lynne S. Rider moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded and it was unanimously so voted to approve the proration additions to the 2008 tax roll as requested by Anne L. Carlson, Tax Assessor in the amount of \$1,954.94.

John Lewis aye, Joe Cardillo aye, Roger L. Hawes aye, Lynne S. Rider aye.

Roger L. Hawes moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the request from Troy Beauparlant to reconstruct a new sign for the Town Hall and re-mulch the front flower beds, for an eagle scout project.

Joe Cardillo aye, Lynne S. Rider aye, Roger L. Hawes aye, John Lewis aye.

**EXECUTIVE  
SESSION**

Lynne S. Rider moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to go into Executive Session according 42-46-4 & 5 (1) personnel and to reconvene in open session and further to keep the minutes of said meeting closed and the minutes of all Executive Sessions held previous to this meeting be closed and remain to provisions of the General Laws of Rhode Island 42-46-4 & 5

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

There were no votes taken in executive session.

A digital sound file is made a part of the record for a complete account of the council meeting.

Submitted By

Tina W. Freeman  
Town Clerk